



CONTEST
Local gingerbread
houses featured, Page 3



SCHOLARSHIP
'Christmas Carol' essay
earns award, Page 6



SPORTS
Posthumous call
for Carl Beane, Page 12

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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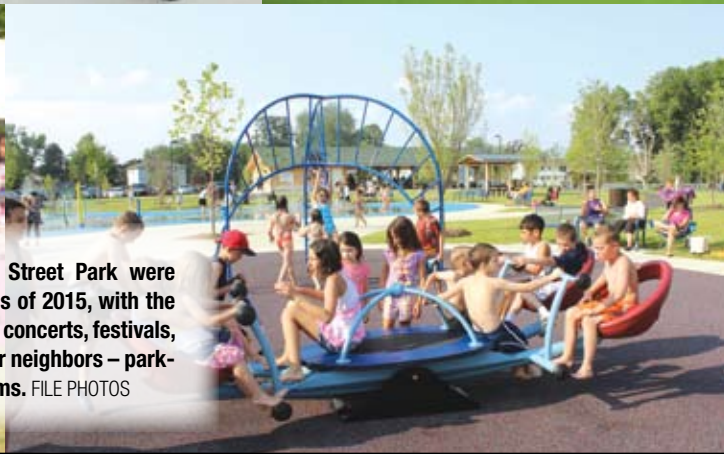
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Year in review



Additions to School Street Park were among the top stories of 2015, with the park hosting musical concerts, festivals, a spray park and – for neighbors – parking and noise problems. FILE PHOTOS



LIQUOR LICENSE

The Still under close scrutiny

Bar can stay open, but on 'probation' for loud noise

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Still will have an entertainment license to begin 2016, but that license will be under careful watch by the Agawam City Council.

The council voted at their Dec. 21 meeting unanimously to approve the license, but also three conditions and a promise to review the status of the license early next year.

Council President Christopher Johnson said following the numerous complaints from neighbors about excessive noise and vibrations coming from The Still, which is located 858 Suffield St. in Southgate Plaza, he felt conditions should be made for the license.

He proposed requiring the stage face toward the front of the business, which has already been done, that theater curtains be draped in the front of the store, and that all bands coming into the business be required to use the house sound system in order to ensure there is not excessive noise coming from louder speakers.

His amendment was approved 8-2, with Councilors Joseph Mineo and James Cichetti voting against the conditions.

Johnson also suggested a formal review of the license at the

STILL | page 2

STORY OF THE YEAR

Progress, but no sale yet, for eyesore property

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Throughout the past two years, a strategy to finally resolve a 15-year issue with the former Games and Lanes property has been a hot topic among the town's administration, Planning Department, and the Agawam City Council.

One of the culminating events of 2015 was a mid-October announcement that Site Redevelopment Technologies, a firm that works with contaminated properties to rehabilitate them

and sell them to developers, had entered into a purchase and sales agreement with the owner of the property.

However, as the calendar closes on 2015, the sale has not gone through yet and Manfred Tidor is still the owner of the property.

Mayor Richard Cohen said sale is still pending some various testing sites surrounding Games and Lanes, at 346-350 Walnut Street Ext.

"There is still some pending testing on some property the buy-

GAMES | page 7



Games and Lanes ended 2015 as it began, an empty eyesore depressing the Walnut Street Extension area with no concrete redevelopment plan in place. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

NEWSMAKER OF THE YEAR

Roberto rode golf course's ups, downs

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The warmth of December has made Tony Roberto's hot seat a little cooler.

The general manager of the Agawam Municipal Golf Course found himself alternately praised and lambasted throughout 2015, as the golf course — a town-owned enterprise intended to run an independent budget — returned to profitability but still required sev-

eral budgetary interventions by the City Council to pay late bills.

Golf course revenues are up so far in fiscal year 2016 and Roberto said the warm weather and improvements to the golf course experience have been responsible for turnaround in the business.

"We have been fortunate in a time where golf, overall, in this country is down," said Mayor Richard Cohen. "Courses are

ROBERTO | page 6

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

New parks prove popular

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Two new parks made 2015 a banner year for outdoor recreation and entertainment in Agawam.

The second phase of School Street Park opened in June, and the Agawam Dog Park followed the next month.

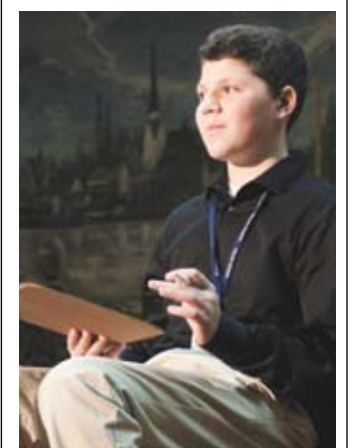
"We really had an exceptional year with opening these two parks," said Mayor Richard Cohen. "These two parks were very well received and got great use from the public."

Work at School Street Park included the addition of a large pavilion with a concession stand utilized by the Agawam Rotary Club and Lions Club during different events, including the Summer Concert Series at the new band shell. It costs \$2.2 million, with a \$1.8 million contribution from the Community Preservation Act and a \$400,000 PARC grant from the state, Cohen said.

For many families, though, the centerpiece of the park is the new spray park.

PARKS | page 7

Think Quick



Zachary "Zach" Quick ponders a question before writing his answer on a whiteboard he's holding. The eighth grader went on to win the Agawam Junior High School National Geographic Geography Bee on Dec. 21. Story and more photos in next week's Agawam Advertiser News. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



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Reiki, tai chi sessions in late Jan.

The Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., will host the following adult programs in January.

Jan. 25, 3 to 6 p.m.: Staff from Feeding Hills Wellness will offer free 10-minute sessions of either reiki or therapeutic massage. Therapeutic modalities support and assist the body to reduce stress and increase relaxation, which promotes healing. For more information, visit www.feedinghills-wellness.com. Registration is recommended, as time slots are limited. Registration is

by phone only at 413-789-1550, ext. 4, and begins Jan. 4.

Jan. 26, 7 p.m.: Adult Drop-In Tai Chi will meet on the last Tuesday of the month now through May. The classes are for beginners, but all adults 18 and older are welcome to attend. Wear comfortable clothing that allows freedom of movement. Susan Moore has over 20 years of experience teaching exercise and mind/body practices, including both tai chi and yoga, to people of all ages and abilities. No registration is needed.

STILL ■ from page 1

end of March, giving The Still three months of "probation."

The council has the ability to suspend or revoke the license for cause at any point with a vote of the body, which issues all entertainment licenses.

Councilor Robert Rossi, the chairman of the Administrative Subcommittee, spoke against renewing the license after receiving what he called a troubling report about The Still's owner, Rebecca Masler.

He said he was told Masler was using a police scanner to find out when her neighbors were making complaints. She would use that information to turn down the music before the police arrive to the neighbor's houses.

Masler's attorney, Stephen Buoniconti, vehemently denied the accusations against his client. He did say Masler had received calls from a couple of customers telling her police were coming.

"But she did not turn down the music," said Buoniconti. "She simply went out to the back of the building to listen to the noise coming out the back herself."

Buoniconti said Masler found that soundproofing materials installed were not muffling all the noise. She then invested more money in the fall to change the direction of her performing stage so the bands would face the front of the building. She is in the process of getting theater curtains to

drape in front.

Following Buoniconti's comments, Rossi said even he was willing to support the license renewal provided the council keep an eye on it.

He also suggested the Legislative Subcommittee establish a decibel limit for entertainment licenses. Councilor Anthony Suffriti told his fellow councilors he accepted an invitation to come down to The Still and see the improvements in action.

"I was really impressed with the work they have done and there have been no complaints since November," said Suffriti.

Councilor Joseph Mineo said he believes Masler has done her due diligence to quell the noise.

A few residents on Silver Street, which face the back of The Still, have been making regular complaints to police since 2014, claiming excessive noise has disturbed their reasonable right to peace.

Those neighbors have spoken to city councilors during public comment at recent meetings, but none came to the Dec. 21 meeting.

The entertainment license was up for renewal on Nov. 16, but Buoniconti had asked the council to continue the vote to Dec. 21 so more improvements to the bar could be done.

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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Genealogy, knitting, coloring for adults

The Agawam Public Library has announced the following adult programs to be offered in January.

Introduction to Genealogy: Jan. 4, 7 p.m. Cher Collins, adult services librarian, will introduce patrons to research strategies, as well as popular online resources ancestry.com and Heritage Quest. To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 8851, or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

Adult Drop-In Sit and Knit: Jan. 5, 1-3 p.m. Residents are invited to bring sticks and strings, meet other knitters, and maybe learn something new. This free program for adults is open to the public and no registration is required. Knitting instructor Sandy Ellis will be on hand the first Tuesday of the month from December through May to teach new techniques and assist with knitting problems.

Coloring for Grown-Ups: Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m. Relive happy times, except with gel pens and pencils. All coloring pages and supplies will be provided, as well as snacks. The event will be held in the Children's Programming Room (adults only). Space is limited. To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

St. Pat's Committee to meet Jan. 20

The Agawam Saint Patrick Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20. The meeting will take place in the lower level classroom at St. John's Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam.

Local gingerbread houses on display at museum

SPRINGFIELD — The theme of this year's display of gingerbread houses at the Springfield Science Museum was "Seussian Holiday." Several Agawam and Feeding Hills residents took part in the competition with submissions, including "The Cat's Quizzer," "Turning Into the Holidays," "Armory Howard Street Building," "Look Who's in Who-ville" and "Holiday Cottage."

Cheryl Barnhart of Agawam won first place in the adult division with "Home for the Holidays": "This enchanting holiday creation portrays a traditional all-American home. The family of this home is about

to receive the best holiday gift ever — a surprise visit from their soldier who has just returned home for the holidays after a long deployment overseas."

Olivia Salva and family, from Feeding Hills, won third place in the youth division for "The Taj Mahal": "This project was inspired by the allure of the grandness of the Taj Mahal. While we have only seen pictures, it can be imagined how amazing such a construction must be in person."

The gingerbread houses are on display at the Springfield Science Museum until Jan. 3.



"Home for the Holidays," by Cheryl Barnhart of Agawam, won first place in the adult division. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Sarah White and Aimee Lunden, both of Feeding Hills, entered "Look Who's in Who-ville" in the adult division of the gingerbread house competition. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY GERALDINE SCHILLING-NORDAL



"Holiday Cottage" was entered by Sarah Platanitis of Feeding Hills. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY GERALDINE SCHILLING-NORDAL



Olivia Salva and family, of Feeding Hills, won third place in the youth division for their "Taj Mahal" gingerbread house. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY GERALDINE SCHILLING-NORDAL

Cultural Council seeks new members

The Agawam Cultural Council will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

An opportunity exists with the Cultural Council for anyone with an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town. This all-volunteer organization, appointed by the mayor and funded, in part, by the

Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members. The Agawam Cultural Council is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

Irish entertainment trip set for March

St. John's Travelers will host a trip to Chez Josef Tuesday, March 15, for a showing of "Tony Kenny's Irish Celebration." Direct from Dublin, Kenny is Ireland's most beloved artists, having sung in countless musical productions and has won many awards for his work over the course of decades.

The show will also include singer comedian Richie Hayes, Bernadette Ruddy, the

Dublin City Dancers and the Dublin Trinity Band.

Cost for the drive-on-your-own trip is \$59 per person, which includes a full course luncheon with choice of corned beef and cabbage or baked scrod. Those attending should arrive at Chez Josef, 176 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, at 11:30 a.m.

For reservations, contact Emile Cote at 413-335-9440.

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YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on Friday, January 8, 2016 at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at the Tax Collector's Office, Agawam City Hall, pursuant to the provisions of the general Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE FOR THE City of Agawam the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

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Ext. 8710 AnnMarie Hartmann, Assistant Collector**

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8835-/191. Tax for FY-2014 \$1,182.67 AND FY-2015 \$2,570.31.

**MICHALAK DAVID M,
MICHALAK MICHELLE B,**
LAND & BUILDING located at 127 JAMES ST in AGAWAM,
containing 1.300 ACRES shown on Assessor's Map G14010018,
recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book/Page
7894-/279. Tax for FY-2015 \$526.84.

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

A letter from the editor – Thanks!

As your local newspaper in Agawam and Feeding Hills, the Agawam Advertiser News is the only news source that focuses squarely on your hometown. But we admit it – we appreciate all the help.

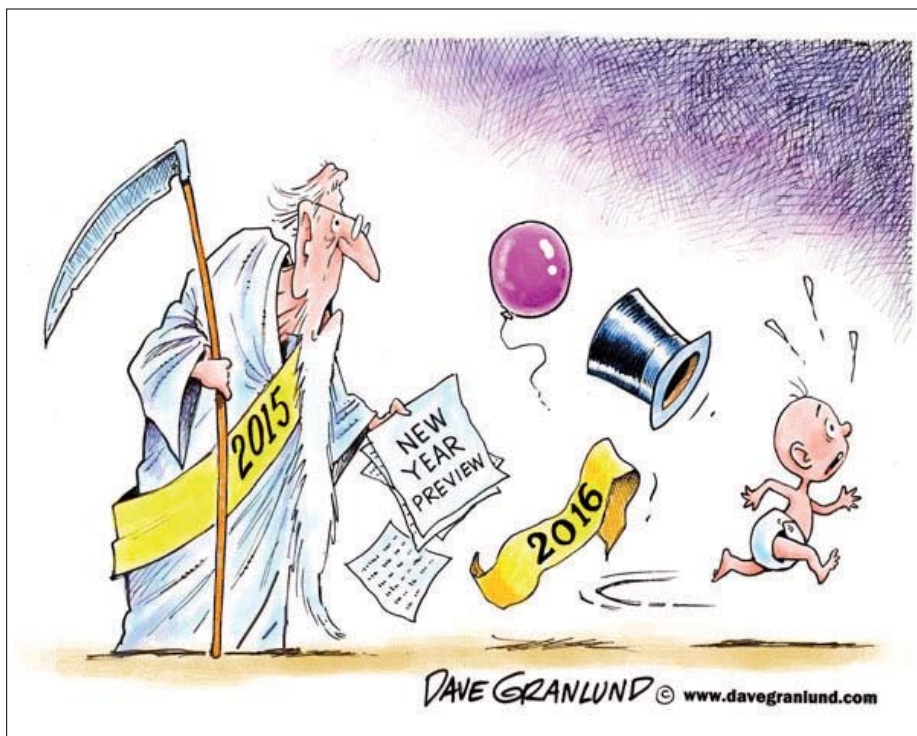
Most of the little tidbits that fill the small spaces on the inside of the paper – the club meetings, the church suppers, the youth sports photos – start out as press releases forwarded to us by a club member, a church secretary, a team parent or, simply, a loyal reader who saw something interesting and wanted to make sure we knew about it, too. If you know about a team or a church or a club or any event that we haven't covered in the past, give us a call or drop us an email – we want to cover it, we probably just don't know about it, yet. Nine times out of ten, if you send us a writeup or a photo of something happening in Agawam, we'll be glad to print it.

Like any local business, we depend on the patronage of our neighbors. So here's a "thank you" to our fellow Agawam businesses who advertise in the Advertiser News, and to our subscribers and newsstand customers who pay for our print edition. And extra thanks for the folks who buy a copy of the paper ... and then spend the rest of their money at one of our advertisers' businesses.

On this editorial page, we especially thank all the local letter writers and columnists who shared their views with us over the past 12 months. Thanks to the Rev. Richard Adams, Agawam Beautification Committee, Agawam Junior Women's Club, Agawam Robotics Education Association Inc., Agawam St. Patrick's Day Committee, AHS Class of 1974, AHS Field Hockey Booster Club, AHS Field Hockey Team, Frank J. Andruss Sr., Jay Berger, Kitty Berger, George Bitzas, Pastor Ken Blanchard, Janet Brown, Chet Comins, Theresa Conklin, Ruth Cosimi, the Rev. Greg Dawson, the Rev. Rob Donaldson, Stephanie Douglass, Elm Belcher Masonic Lodge, Dee L. Emery-Ferrero Ann Favreau, Chris Frasier, Friends of Robinson State Park, George A. Galiatsos, Mary Ann Gapinski, Bernadette Gentry, Douglas Goodman, Cecilia Goslin, Brian D. Halla, Barbara Hooper, Pamela Jacobsen, Gary F. Janulewicz, Rosemary LaFleur, Pat Lalancette, Anne Liptak, Ann Macey, Bob Magovern, Bruce Marshall, Bonnie Massoia, Roberta McQuaid, Jill Messick, Carol Moccio, Cynthia Montano, Richard Morassi, Ray and Marguerite Moreau, Michele Morris, Kathleen A. Mounimeh, Congressman Richard E. Neal, Cynthia Newsome, John and JoAnne Newsome, Eddie O'Brien, Bob Olmstead, Warren L. Parker, Susan Peoples, Jo-elle Phillips, Matt Reardon, the Rev. Tim Reed, Don Rheault, Charlie Ryan, Debby Sanchez, Rosemary Sandlin, Raoul Sands, Irene Scanlon, Donna Shibley, Kirk Ray Smith, Ginny Stempel, Walt Willard, Corinne M. Wingard and Mary M. Young.

To all who wrote, thanks again, and we're looking forward to reading what you have to say in 2016. And to everyone else – we want to hear from you, too. Let your neighbors know what you think about the day's news. Send your letter to the editor to Agawam Advertiser News, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, or email aan@turley.com.

It is your newspaper, after all. So tell us what you think!



JAY SPEAKS

Football and music

I truly enjoy the football season. Not just about the colors, the contests, the crowds, but also the music. There are those that like 13th century music, others frequent country and western concerts, and of course rock and reggae. However, if you were to ask Jay Berger, he would tell you there is nothing as good as band music. You know, the old-fashioned marching band, playing John Philip Sousa's songs.

Growing up, I used to go with my parents to the Sunday band concert on the green. The concert would end with the American flag and "The Star-Spangled Banner" sung by everyone. There were constant parades, and every group in town had their own band. High school season had competition not only for football, but also for greatest band.

At the University of Connecticut, I played the glockenspiel in the UConn Marching Band. How did I get to be a glockenspiel player? Easily ... I was having lunch and the band leader came over and asked me if I knew the piano keyboard. When I said yes, he announced, "You are the next new glockenspiel player!" And I loved it.

When our parents could be talked into it, we would go to Boston and take in an afternoon with the Boston Pops. I loved it when, after playing the "The Stars and Stripes Forever," the American flag would come down and everyone would sing the national anthem.

Even today, on July 4th, we all have the option of the National Mall with the National Orchestra; "The Rock" concert in New York City; or the Boston Pops along Storow Drive. The Pops does the same thing to this day. The concert ends with the "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and

the giant American flag comes down and everyone rises.

In recent years, Kitty and I have been attending a number of UMass football games. The UMass marching band has won a great number of international competitions. If you arrive early, you can hear and see them before the game, during the break at the half, and, if you wait, they will play after the game, as well.

At the game preceding Homecoming, there is a program at the game called "Band Day." All the high school bands across the commonwealth are invited to come to Amherst and take part in Band Day.

They are all given the same songs to play and at the half there is an enormous mass of musicians on the football field playing the assigned tunes. A very great experience.

A couple of years in high school, I temporarily gave up band music for the "Big Band Era." I was fortunate to live not very far from Canobie Lake Park, where all the big bands came to play. I saw Glenn Miller, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey, Cab Calloway, Artie Shaw, Buddy Rich, and of course all the famous singers that they brought along. This era came to a halt with the start of World War II. It was back to band music for me.

However, I have a confession to make. When I am at a UMass football game and the same day we have a classical concert with the Springfield Symphony, I leave the game at the half to accompany Kitty to the Symphony.

I need more band music!

Jay Berger is retired from a job in publishing and lives in Agawam with his wife Kitty. They have three children and six grandchildren.



Jay Berger

FAITH MATTERS

No purpose without God

The greatest task for any person is to find meaning in one's life. Freud said it was to find pleasure. Adler said it was a quest for power. The person who knows the reason for life can bear almost anything that comes his way.

Why are we suffering from the increase in drug abuse – violence – suicide? We are drowning in a sea of emotional pain. When you tell people there is no God, that they are just animals who have evolved from lower life forms and are a product of random chance, you do not offer hope for either meaning or purpose. If happiness comes from material things, America should be the happiest place on earth. Instead, America strives for distractions so it

can ignore its pain.

When God is removed and faith replaced by natural selection, mankind's dignity collapses and we are no longer any different than an animal. If this is true, we should refrain from killing and eating any animal. God created the animals, but He feeds the 5,000 with fish. Man is created in God's image, higher than the animals. If this is not true, then why isn't the death of an animal on the highway treated like a hit-and-run crime? Or the buffet at Golden Corral not treated like a mass murder?

The only answer to these questions comes from the Bible and the Creator.



Rev. Richard Adams



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Monday at Noon. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.



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DEATH NOTICES

Ceccarini, Adam P.
Died Dec. 25
Private burial
Agawam Funeral Home, Inc.

Clampit, Irma A.
Died Dec. 17
Funeral Dec. 21
Agawam Funeral Home, Inc.

Dean, Wayne J.
Died Dec. 19
Funeral Dec. 26
Agawam Funeral Home, Inc.

Mackintosh, Mary E.
Died Dec. 16
Funeral Dec. 21
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
Agawam

Nemes, Walter A.
Died Dec. 22
Funeral Dec. 28
Agawam Funeral Home, Inc.

Simpson, Wilma R.
Died Dec. 26
Funeral Dec. 31
Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home
West Springfield

Taylor, William C.
Died Dec. 22
Funeral Dec. 29
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
West Springfield

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 62 EMS calls from Dec. 15 to Dec. 20, and the following emergency response calls.

On Dec. 15 at 6:54 a.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 15 at 2:45 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for water problem, other.

On Dec. 16 at 5:34 a.m., the department responded to Silver Street for water problem, other.

On Dec. 16 at 11:45 a.m., the department responded to M Street with no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

On Dec. 16 at 11:38 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On Dec. 17 at 10:33 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street, was dispatched and canceled en route.

On Dec. 17 at 5:27 p.m., the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 17 at 8:16 p.m., the department responded to Colemore Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 18 at 3:09 a.m., the department responded to Fordham Avenue for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 19 at 1:50 p.m., the department responded to Bradford Drive for service call, other.

On Dec. 19 at 10:32 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for unintentional transmission of alarm, other.

On Dec. 20 at 3:28 p.m., the department responded to River Road for lockout.

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 76 EMS calls from Dec. 22 to Dec. 28, and the following emergency response calls.

On Dec. 22 at 6:07 a.m., the department responded to Castle Hills Road for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 22 at 4:37 p.m., the department responded to Maynard Street for building fire.

On Dec. 22 at 5:34 p.m., the department responded to Wright Street for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 23 at 7:19 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for detector activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Dec. 23 at 2:12 p.m., the department responded to Oak Lane to assist invalid.

On Dec. 23 at 4:02 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 23 at 5:40 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 23 at 7:51 p.m., the department responded to Homer Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional

On Dec. 24 at 11:25 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Dec. 24 at 1:39 p.m., the department responded to Birch Hill Road with no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

On Dec. 24 at 3:35 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for public service.

On Dec. 25 at 12:31 p.m., the department responded to Doane Avenue for good intent call, other.

On Dec. 25 at 2:05 p.m., the department responded to Lancaster Drive for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Dec. 25 at 5:11 p.m., the department responded to River Road for heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn.

On Dec. 25 at 7:27 p.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for public service assistance, other.

On Dec. 25 at 11:35 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 26 at 6:43 a.m., the department responded to North Street for water problem, other.

On Dec. 26 at 11:54 a.m., the department responded to Debra Lane for cooking fire, confined to container.

On Dec. 26 at 8:56 p.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for attempted burning, illegal action, other.

On Dec. 28 at 8:15 a.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Dec. 28 at 10:59 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for smoke from barbecue, tar kettle.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 269 calls for service from Dec. 21 to Dec. 27. The department recorded three arrests in its public log. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, Dec. 23

Vladimir V. Duducal, 26, of 25 Westford Circle, Agawam, was arrested on charges of breaking and entering in the daytime for felony, larceny from building, larceny over \$250, malicious destruction of property, possession of a Class A drug subsequent offense, and possession of burglarious instrument.

Mark Ciloci, 20, of 24 Bates St., Westfield, was arrested on charges of breaking and entering a building in the daytime for felony, larceny over \$250, larceny from building, malicious destruction of property, possession of burglarious instrument, possession of a Class A drug, and possession of a Class B drug.

Saturday, Dec. 26

Pedro J. Cuevas Jr., 46, of 57 Merwin St., Springfield, was arrested on a warrant for failure to give DNA.

FAITH ■ from page 4

Evolutionists or atheists cannot fully explain the reason we are different from the animals. Animals do not speak. Some can be trained to imitate human speech or behavior, but they do not paint nor do they complain about their lives. You are uniquely created. When societies deny this fact, they digress into injustice and quickly dehumanize portions of their population.

Faith in God, the Creator, brings meaning, purpose and cohesion to us as the people of the earth. Life has reached us (through our faith in Christ) and offers a real and enduring hope (in Him). This is why Faith does matter.

The Rev. Richard Adams is pastor at Bethany Assembly of God on Main Street.



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33. Passage with access only at one end
35. Underwater airways
36. Small, slight
37. Box (abbr.)
39. __ Blake, actress
42. Repents
43. Merchandising
44. Exclamation of surprise
46. With fireplace residue
47. A small lake
48. Bait
49. Tip of Aleutian Islands
50. K ____: watercraft (alt. sp.)
51. Norse variant of "often"
52. Adolescent
53. Visual metaphor (Computers)
54. River in Spanish
55. Cowboy Carson
56. Powerful gun lobby

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YEAR IN REVIEW

2015

PARKS ■ from page 1

"I knew the park was going to be pretty popular," said Parks and Recreation Director Christopher Sparks. "I had no idea it would be a grand slam."

The spray park was open during most of the daytime until timers turned off the water at 7 p.m. In 2016, however, the town plans to curtail those hours after being hit with an estimated \$22,000 water bill this year.

"We will have to be more careful," said Sparks. "It will probably be less hours in 2016, but we still want to offer this attraction."

Sparks is still formulating his fiscal 2017 budget proposal and the revised hours for the spray park will be included in that proposal.

Maintenance cost approximately \$13,000, with three seasonal park supervisors keeping an eye on the property. He said that costs will be included in next year's budget request. Mowing and other maintenance of the park is part of the public works budget.

School Street Park was the site of the Summer Concert Series as well as the Rotary Club's Harvest Festival, both of which moved from cramped space on the Veterans Green.

Those events will return in 2016 along with the Relay for Life, which was held on the walkways at the park because the school track was due for construction. That construction will take place in 2016, so the Relay will stay at School Street, May 20-21. National Night Out also moved from the high school grounds to School Street this year.

Sparks also announced the park will host an elementary school concert on May 6 and a high school band-athon on May 28. The summer concert series will run next year from July 6 to Aug. 17.

There are no plans to change the parking configuration, though Cohen and Sparks said they will make adjustments if and when a developer decides on plans to construct anything on an adjacent property to the park that was used for overflow parking during larger events this year.

"As of now, there are no plans that have been filed," said Cohen. "So we will continue to use that adjacent property a few times a year for the larger events. If the property is developed, then we will come up with something different."

There was no formal or estimated count of visitors, but School Street Park was utilized on a daily basis by a lot of people, Cohen said. The same was true of the Agawam Dog Park, located at Shea Park. It opened in

Newcomers of the year

The two most talked-about additions of the summer were Phase II of School Street Park and the Agawam Dog Park at Shea Field. There were birthing pains: The size of the dog park had to be scaled down after initial construction bids came in higher than anticipated, and some School Street Park neighbors protested the new noise and traffic in their backyards. As the next summer approaches, the town has to address the cost of maintenance for these new amenities.

July, with a grand opening in September.

Former Agawam Dog Owners Group President Deborah Sanchez said 2015 was a successful year with the park opening and receiving frequent use.

"Our volunteers were there most days," said Sanchez. "They were visible with jackets that said 'volunteer' on them. They made sure to keep the park clean and that people followed the rules."

The contributions of ADOG were praised by Cohen, who said ADOG has helped the town maintain the park at a minimal cost.

"We have to pay our maintenance folks to remove the trash when they come through Shea," said Cohen. "But the volunteers have otherwise kept that park clean and operating well and I give them a lot of credit."

Sanchez, who resigned as president of ADOG in November but is still an active member of the group, says maintenance funds left from a Stanton Foundation will help pay for new playground equipment in 2016. ADOG also donated several hundred dollars for additional dog waste receptacles throughout the park.

"We are really looking forward to 2016," said Sanchez. "We hope the park will continue to be popular."

Sanchez said there may be overseeding done in the spring and more equipment, but no other major work is planned for the park.

ADOG is able to do a lot their work through fundraising, and Sanchez announced the annual Comedy Night is scheduled for Feb. 13 at Oak Ridge Golf Course. Tickets are \$20 each and available at Southgate Liquors. For parties of six or more, contact Sanchez at adogpres@gmail.com.

GAMES ■ from page 1

Story of the year

For the second straight year, Games and Lanes is our pick for the biggest ongoing story in Agawam. One buyer fell through and another is still waiting for final testing to be complete before closing on the property. In between, the eyesore property became the poster child for a blight ordinance and a political talking point during the town election — particularly with one of Games and Lanes' business neighbors running a write-in campaign against the incumbent mayor.

Cohen said plans are still moving forward to improve the "downtown" area, to increase parking and install a promenade with destination shops. Cohen said the proposed improvements to the nearby Morgan-Sullivan Bridge, as part of the state's Transportation Bond Bill, should also help bring people to the area.

Games and Lanes closed more than 15 years ago and the property fell into disrepair. For many years, the town would not take control of the land through tax title because taxpayers would have been responsible for the cost of cleaning up the property.

In 2014, the City Council approved a mixed use zoning that would make it more flexible for businesses to develop in the Walnut Street Extension area. The goal was to make the site more attractive so someone would purchase the Games and Lanes property and resell it.

The back taxes on the property have been abated by the state Department of

ROBERTO ■ from page 1

Newsmaker of the year

Whether you love it or hate it, you have to admit that the Agawam Municipal Golf Course was often in the news in 2015. Tony Roberto, the general manager, may have been the most intensely scrutinized unelected town employee of the year. Councilors spent the first half of the year questioning if Roberto could finish fiscal 2015 in black ink — which he did — and the second half questioning Roberto's bookkeeping, after several late, unpaid bills surfaced.

breakdown of member rounds as well as rounds played through tournaments or students or compensated rounds.

"The bottom line is that play at the course has increased and the course is still in great shape," said Roberto.

The course has benefited from support the last two years from the City Council. The council has supplemented golf revenues as needed, with \$265,000 of taxpayer funds for new golf carts, and this year, \$70,000 for a new multi-tier mower.

In 2016, Roberto said he hopes to provide more clinics and opportunities for younger golfers to play on the course. He also hopes improved revenues will allow him to increase staffing. Barring additional help from the council, the golf course budget is limited to the revenue taken in the previous year.

The golf course revenue is \$522,000 for fiscal 2015. Cohen said the course is running a quality operation with a budget slightly above what is started with in 1995, when the course was purchased.

"The course's budget started at \$510,000 when the town bought it," said Cohen.

The City Council established an ad hoc Golf Committee to help work with Roberto to get the course operations back on track. The committee was headed by outgoing City Councilor Dennis Perry.

er has not been able to access," said Cohen. "Once that testing is complete, the sale should go through as planned."

SRT owner David Peter confirmed Cohen's statement on Monday morning. He said there is an apartment complex located on Suffield Street behind EB's Restaurant his company is still trying to access.

"We have completed our off-site testing for spread contamination with the exception of this one property," said Peter. "We are in the process of trying to secure permission from the landlord and tenants of this property so we can do the final testing."

He said the testing for contamination levels on the other sites have come in at appropriate numbers and he is prepared to move forward with the sale as long as the finals tests go well. Peter has not developed any formal timelines beyond the testing phase.

"I am hoping we will be able to complete the final tests on the Suffield Street property within a month," Peter said. "At that point, my hope is the sale of the property will be finalized during the winter."

Once the sale is finalized, Peter will develop a timeline to formally clean up the property so it can be redeveloped.

"There are a lot of different entities involved so it is hard to give a real timeline right now," said Peter.

At this point, there are no formal plans for how the property could be used, but in keeping with the town's conceptual plans for the wider Walnut Street Extension area — envisioned as a "walkable downtown" district — Cohen hopes it is converted into some sort of retail space.

"However, it is not my property, so it is not up to me," said Cohen. "My hope is that it will be developed into a good use and will be a productive part of the area."

shutting down all over the place and our municipal course has seen improvements in their business."

Cohen and Roberto both acknowledged some of the hiccups that have occurred this year, which drew the ire of Agawam City Councilors. Councilors were asked several times to pay previous fiscal year bills in order to close out the books from fiscal 2015.

"We had some issues with the bills," said Roberto. "There were a few things that fell through the cracks. But we have installed the Munis system at the course and that will better track our purchase orders so that we will not have these issues."

Because the new fiscal year starts in July, a breakdown of the 2015 calendar year is not available. However, Roberto said there were revenue increases from 2014 each month for the second half of the year, which is in fiscal 2016.

He said there was a significant improvement this month, because warm temperatures allowed him to open the golf course for several people to enjoy rounds during the holiday season. The course was specifically open on the weekends, and the course took in revenue for food and bar service.

"We made more money on Sunday [Dec. 27] than all of December 2014," said Roberto. "Revenues are up by about 1,600 percent this month."

Roberto is still tallying the numbers from the second half of 2015, but estimates the course will head to next spring approximately \$65,000 to \$75,000 ahead of last year's pace.

"We are going to be heading into the spring in good shape and we plan to offer a great golfing experience in 2016," said Roberto.

Agawam's course was in great shape following a brutal 2014-15 winter. Many courses had to spend thousands in clean-up, but Agawam was able to open on time. From April to October, the course was in great shape with more good weather days than 2014.

Roberto estimates that rounds of golf sold were up from last year, and more than 25,000 rounds of golf were played on the course. However, Roberto does not have a

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YEAR IN REVIEW

2015

The *year* out in front

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

The Agawam Advertiser News published 52 editions in 2015, with the top stories from our town on the front page of each. Here's a look back at one of those cover stories for each week of the past year:

January

Jan. 1: The Fire Department is looking for four part-time firefighters, as its call corps has been reduced by members moving out of town.

Jan. 8: Holyoke Credit Union was offering a \$10,000 reward for information on the suspect in an armed robbery at its Agawam branch.

Jan. 15: Mayor Richard Cohen said that he was in talks with "a remediation company" to buy the former Games and Lanes property.

Jan. 22: With bids coming in \$100,000 higher than expected, the size of the Agawam Dog Park was reduced to fit a \$270,000 budget.

Jan. 29: Mark Del Negro is shooting his new feature film in town, but he won't say where. The film, his second, was released as "Aleister" in November.

February

Feb. 5: The St. Patrick's Day Committee is set to celebrate the crowning of its 15th Colleen, an annual tradition that began in 2001.

Feb. 12: The Parish Council at St. John the Evangelist Church sent a letter to the bishop expressing dismay that the Rev. To-

masz Parzynski was being reassigned.

Feb. 19: Deborah Dachos retires, ending a 33-year tenure as town planner — the only person ever to have held that position.

Feb. 26: The School Committee voted to name the new running track at Agawam High School — when it is built — after longtime Athletic Director Lou Conte.

March

March 5: High costs and low grant funding have kept Soldier On — veterans housing in the former police academy property, permitted in 2012 — from getting started.

March 12: Brownies hockey won its first-ever Western Mass. Division 3 championship, defeating Westfield. Agawam went on to lose in the state championship game.

March 19: Agawam Colleen Lauren Muszynski participated in a series of events leading up to the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade.

March 26: Former players and colleagues remembered "Rudy" Altobelli, a pioneering Agawam ice hockey and tennis coach, who died March 8.

April

April 2: Miriam Tefts of Southwick won the first-ever "Agawam Idol" singing competition at the Springfield Turnverein. Alexis Kupiec of Agawam finished second.

April 9: Neighbors and classmates were joining #TeamAlex, rallying around AHS sophomore Alex Scafuri, who was paralyzed in a hit-and-run accident March 16.

April 16: City councilors questioned the

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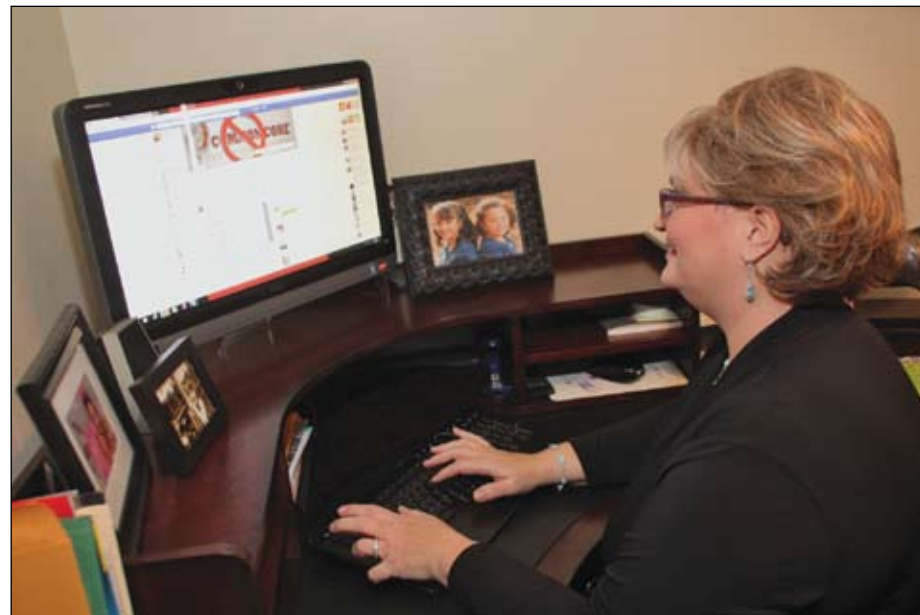
March: Agawam's float in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade, "A Bit of the Old Sod," won first place as the best Irish-themed float. Riding on the float are the Colleen, Lauren Muszynski, and her court. FILE PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY / WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



March: Demolition begins on Partners Restaurant, which had been closed since a fire in September 2014. The restaurant reopened this month. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



January: Alexandra Humphries and her teacher, Jennifer MacDonald, review a bulletin board Humphries created about community service. Humphries, then an eighth grader at Agawam Junior High School, had traveled to Boston to participate in Project 351, a statewide volunteering event. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



February: Michele Labonte-Veras does research for Agawam Parents for Children First, a group that formed to oppose the new Common Core educational standards. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



January: Nate Thomas and Leslie Prieto co-host a morning radio show on WLCQ, a Christian radio station based in Feeding Hills. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



February: Junior High School students get ready to test life jackets they designed themselves, using common materials such as styrofoam and duct tape, in an eighth grade science and engineering class. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

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need for new, invasive background checks on door-to-door vendors in town. The council ended up supporting the new law later in April.

April 23: Soldier On, the proposed veterans housing development on South Westfield Street, announced it would begin construction in the summer.

April 30: Marc Strange, a former attorney and judge, was hired as the town's new director of planning and economic development.



April: The Agawam Junior Women's Club hosted its annual fashion show April 19. Pictured is Jen Stempel in a chic career outfit. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



May: Jesse Leddick, with MassWildlife, holds a box turtle during "Turtle Palooza," a program hosted by Eversource in Agawam in May to teach its contractors how to protect endangered species at worksites. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



May: Alex Scafuri, victim of a March hit-and-run accident, acknowledges the crowd at his home upon his return from the hospital in late May. FILE PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



June: AHS Seniors Erbling Nuhii, left, and Sasha Papova check out the school's yearbook before picking up their graduation caps and gowns a couple days before their graduation. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



May: The AHS prom had an "Alice in Wonderland" theme this year. FILE PHOTO BY WILLIAM PEAD

May

May 7: Even with cuts in the supply budget — likely to mean more out-of-pocket expenses for teachers and parents — the Agawam school budget still went up 2.7 percent, to \$41 million.

May 14: Neighbors objected to two drive-through businesses proposed for North Westfield Street near Feeding Hills Center, but the project was eventually approved to be built.

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June: The Fire Department's new ambulance was nicknamed "St. Raphael's Chariot," a name submitted by fourth-grader Jeymi Perez in a Phelps School contest. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

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YEAR IN REVIEW

2015

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May 21: Alexis Price, a junior at Agawam High School, won a statewide VFW Ladies Auxiliary patriotic art competition for her pencil portrait of a military pilot.

May 28: Recently completed bike lanes on Suffield Street cost \$3,000, but the \$3.19 million School Street bike trail project is still ongoing.

June

June 4: The City Council debated an ordinance that would impose daily fines on owners of “blight” properties in town.

June 11: Former Brownies baseball star Seamus Curran was drafted as a first baseman by the Baltimore Orioles.

June 18: Fourth- and third-grade students from Clark School scored first (out of 68 schools) and second (out of 46), respectively, in the National Science League Contest.

June 25: School Street Park’s new toddler playground and splash pad opened in mid-June, with a grand opening — and first bandstand concert — on July 1.

July

July 2: Alan Cohen and Frank Meagher attended a joint retirement party to mark the end of their long tenures as guidance counselors at Agawam High School — 26 and 17 years, respectively.

July 9: Inspectors find several health, electrical and fire code violations at Agawam Motor Lodge. The town eventually files a lawsuit against the motel.

July 16: After bids came back higher than expected in June, the Track Exploratory Committee decides not to re-bid the high school athletics project immediately, but potentially add to it.

July 23: Agawam native Rich Giordano came home to give a talk on edible wild plants — weeds — at the Agawam Public Library.

July 30: Hundreds lined Main Street to pay their respects to Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Sullivan, the Springfield Marine who was killed in a Tennessee naval reserve center shooting.

August

Aug. 6: Three residents of Feeding Hills Center sue developer Ralph DePalma in an effort to prevent drive-through businesses being added to North Westfield Street.

Aug. 13: Longtime Town Clerk Richard Theroux announces he will step down at the end of the year — but plans to run for

City Council.

Aug. 20: A former volleyball coach at Agawam High School, Michael Rash, was sentenced to two and a half years in jail for statutory rape.

Aug. 27: After failing to collect enough signatures to qualify for the ballot, William Clark announced he would run for mayor as a write-in candidate.

September

Sept. 3: Melinda Bolduc, director of the dementia program at Heritage Hall North, is planning a campaign to raise awareness of the disease in town.

Sept. 10: Residents shouldn’t fear the black bear spotted around town lately, even though he does appear exceptionally fearless around humans, Animal Control Officer Allison Strong said.

Sept. 17: Members of the CPA Committee celebrated the 15th anniversary of the Community Preservation Act, a property tax surcharge to fund historical, preservation and housing needs.

Sept. 24: The “conewich” is a huge hit for the Agawam Lions Club food stand at the Big E, with the handheld mac-and-cheese treat breaking all sales expectations.

October

Oct. 1: City Councilor Cecilia Calabrese called for concessions from the Big E, saying the town was being “held hostage” by traffic to the event in neighboring West Springfield.

Oct. 8: City Councilor James Cichetti and Fire Chief Alan Sirois planned to hit the floor in the Kiwanis Club’s second annual Dancing with the Local Stars competition.

Oct. 15: The Planning Board approved a “Sportsplex” with two soccer fields — including domed enclosures during the winter months — to be built on Garden Street.

Oct. 22: The Golden Age Club, Chapter 1, celebrated its 60th anniversary on Oct. 14 at the town Senior Center.

Oct. 29: Agawam Cinemas announced it would reopen as a locally owned first-run theater Nov. 6 after more than a year of fundraising, renovations and delays.

November

Nov. 5: Voters return most of the incumbents, including Mayor Richard Cohen for an eighth term. Richard Theroux was the only one of six challengers to win a seat on

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August: David Cecchi, left, who organized an Aug. 23 tractor show to benefit the Agawam Historical Society, shares a laugh with society President Rick Bellico of Feeding Hills.



August: Susan Peoples, left, and Rose Dupre led the library children’s room through this year’s summer reading program after the departure of children’s librarian Cynthia Sutter. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



September: Members of the Agawam Fire Department raise the American flag at the town’s Sept. 11 memorial during a ceremony Sept. 11, 2015. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



October: Katie Lunden, 8, reads her ghost story at the Thomas Smith House’s Halloween celebration on Oct. 23. FILE PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



July: Elementary students at a summer science camp watch in amazement as science teacher Tammy Rumpalik demonstrates the effects of chemical reactions using a model of a volcano. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK



July: Post 185’s American Legion baseball team played in honor of Antonio Bruno, their teammate who was injured in a fall at an old quarry on the Agawam-Southwick line. FILE PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

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September: Agawam native John Connelly, right, helps decorate the memorial to his brother Ned, a Marine Corps helicopter pilot, in a Sept. 29 ceremony at Agawam High School. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



November: City Councilor Gina Letellier, one of the 10 incumbents re-elected in 2015, waves to voters at Clark School on Nov. 3. Only one “new-comer” – former Councilor and longtime Town Clerk Richard Theroux – will take office in 2016. FILE PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

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YEAR ■ from page 10

the City Council.

Nov. 12: Neighbors of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline compressor station on Suffield Street are concerned that a pipeline expansion could mean more noise and odors.

Nov. 19: As the court case against the Agawam Motor Lodge continues, town officials say they are seeing an uptick in first responder calls to the motel.

Nov. 26: “Plantation Man,” a two-story statue that formerly stood at Interstates 90 and 291 in Chicopee, is briefly moved to Springfield Street, in front of Headquarters Bar and Grill.

December

Dec. 3: The Springfield Turnverein club in Feeding Hills will close for good this month. It had been open on a limited schedule since a massive fight at an October private party.

Dec. 10: The City Council chooses a tax shift of 1.52, an increase from the current 1.48, which will cause 2016 property taxes to rise higher for commercial properties than residential.

Dec. 17: Agawam students will continue to take MCAS for at least one more year, as the School Committee rejected a proposed move to the Common Core-aligned PARCC test.

Dec. 24: Councilors approve an AHS athletic fields renovation to cost \$7.95 million, but some warn the necessary borrowing could jeopardize plans for a new Early Childhood Center.

December: Clark School’s “Garden Angel,” Richard Stepanik, decorates one of the several Christmas trees he planted to decorate the school. FILE PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

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By: Suellen Duga

SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Westfield holds off Agawam comeback attempt

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – After a strong start to their regular season, the Agawam boys basketball team has scuffled a bit, suffering two straight losses, their most recent one coming last Tuesday night against Westfield.

The Brownies nearly made a full comeback, but came up just short with Westfield hitting their free throws when they needed them in a 61-60 victory over Agawam.

Westfield was visiting Agawam for the first time this season, and they did not disappoint in the first quarter as they took advantage of some turnovers to get a little bit of a lead.

Agawam did not stay down long, though, with Joe Moccio and Meesha Ohradka hitting a couple of key shots to keep the Brownies competitive. Moccio would hit a trey that almost tied the score, but a couple of turnovers would increase the Bombers lead early on.

Sean Moore was also active in the scoring early in the game, having a couple of great drives to the basket in the first quarter en route

to a double-digit night.

Up 20-15, John O'Brien nailed a basket to increase Westfield's lead to 22-15.

Agawam did not stay down, and nipped away at Westfield's lead throughout the second quarter, coming within three points at halftime.

But Westfield opened up the second half on a pretty good run, and limited Agawam's offense in the third quarter.

Agawam did not have an answer for O'Brien, either, having a hard time keeping him away from the basket. O'Brien would lead the Bombers with 16 points and scored from all over the court.

The other big problem for Agawam was Gabe Piepergerdes, who also played an excellent game. He nailed four treys, coming up with big baskets when the Bombers needed them in the second half.

Agawam surged in the final frame, scoring 21 points, but it was not enough to take the lead at the end of the game.

Ohradka would finish the game with an excellent performance



Myles Scott sets to make a three-point attempt. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

BASKETBALL | page 13

HALL OF FAME

Beane leads Hall of Fame class

Seven players; 1961-1963 Chicopee team to be inducted

By Dave Forbes

Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD - One of the great local voices is going to receive an award posthumously.

Carl Beane, who lived in Holland and grew up in Agawam, was the extremely popular Boston Red Sox public address announcer from 2003 until his passing away in May 2012, heads a list of seven individuals and three teams that will be inducted into the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the La Quinta Inn on Congress Street at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 28.

Beane, who wrote a column for Turley Publications called "The Beanepot" and did play-by-play for high school football and basketball games on the radio for WARE, began his broadcasting career at local stations, including WARE. He swiftly moved up the career ladder and was a vital correspondent for media outlets across the country. In addition, he would pinch hit for Tom Cuddy on WBZ and other greater Boston media outlets.

There were two great achievements for Beane at the macro level. The first came in 1988 when he was in Seoul covering the Olympic Games. There, with Ed Coleman, who now covers the New York Mets, Beane anchored roundup coverage of the daily events of the Olympiad. It was a remarkable thrust by Beane. He carried it for-



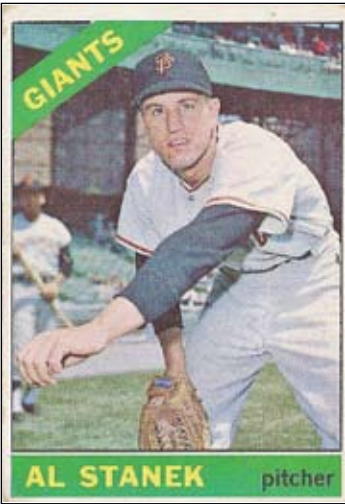
Carl Beane is one of seven individuals set to be inducted into the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

ward, increasing his work in town and upon the departure of Hall of Famer Sherm Feller, he assumed the mantle of the public address announcer for the Red Sox

Another man with a Boston Red Sox connection is also in this induction class — Chicopee native Ray Fagnant. The Holyoke Catholic and Assumption College Hall of Famer played catcher in the minor leagues for both the Red Sox and the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Upon his retirement from baseball, he became a scout for the Red Sox and is in charge of the Northeast territory.

Holyoke native Fran Healy will also be inducted in class. The catcher played nine seasons in the



Al Stanek was part of the 1961, 1962 and 1963 Chicopee High baseball teams.

majors with the Kansas City Royals, San Francisco Giants and New York Yankees, including winning a World Series with the Yankees in 1977.

Healy then worked in the broadcast booth for both the Yankees and Mets. The four-time Emmy Award winner still serves as the host of "The Game 365" on MSG Network in New York.

Wayne Granger, who would go on to pitch for the pennant winning Cincinnati Reds in 1970 and earned "Fireman of the Year" honors, first came to local attention for a pitching performance as a junior at Huntington High School in 1961.

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SWIMMING

Welch leads charge for Brownies

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – After dropping their first two meets of the regular season, the Agawam swimming team has earned two straight wins, defeating Westfield and Sci-Tech.

Last Tuesday afternoon at Agawam Junior High School, the Brownies were able to defeat Westfield, 102-67.

For the Brownies, David Welch had a pretty successful afternoon by scoring wins in four different events.

He was part of two quartets in relay wins, winning the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3 minutes, 48.60 seconds and then the

200-yard medley relay.

On the individual front, Welch captured a victory in the 50-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle. He won the former with a 23.95-second time, and the latter with a 52.68 second finish.

Victory Shapovalov had four victories for the Brownies. He joined Welch in the 200-yard medley relay and then was part of a time that won the 200-yard freestyle relay. Individually, he won the 1-meter diving competition with a score of 174.9. He also won the 100-yard backstroke with a finish of 1:00.17.

David Wheat captured a win in

SWIMMING | page 14

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Agawam stumbles in tough contests

By Gregory A. Scibelli

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam girls basketball team opened up the regular season with a 2-1 record, but scuffled last week, suffering a pair of losses against Holyoke and Chicopee in independent action.

Prior to the Christmas break, Agawam was defeated at home by Chicopee, 53-43.

The Brownies were at a disadvantage early.

Chicopee was finding their top two scorers, Ayanna Meadows and Madison Gutierrez, with frequency, and despite a good comeback from Agawam, Chicopee held a

sizable lead later in the second quarter.

After a basket by Meadows, the Pacers would enter halftime holding a 29-23 lead.

The Pacers did not relinquish the lead in the second half, though Agawam's offense, led by Meghan D'Amours was able to keep pace for the majority of the final two frames.

Another big key to victory for the Pacers was keeping Agawam's big three-point threat, Christie Mirski, off the scoreboard.

Chicopee limited the senior to just four points for the game. She

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Sports



Mike Destefano dekes to his left. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Joe Moccio passes to his right.

BASKETBALL ■ from page 12

from the free throw line. He had 16 points. Of those, seven came from foul line. He also had a trey.

Moccio and Moore both had 15 points. Moccio had two treys and Moore sank five free throws.

Coach Dave Federico said his team will work to clean up the turnovers that are happening as time goes on. Agawam goes with a high-tempo style of offense that makes it prone to mistakes.

“The fast tempo is by design,” said Federi-

co. “We want to use our athleticism to our advantage.”

Agawam played Central earlier this week, then has a long break before getting back into action on Jan. 12 against Chicopee Comp. Agawam also must make up a postponement against East Longmeadow due to a power outage.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

HOCKEY

McAnanama backstops Brownies to victory

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam ice hockey team is still trying to find its identity, but so far this season, that identity has included a dominance over their rivals from Westfield.

For the second time in two weeks, the Brownies defeated the Bombers, defeating Westfield 3-1 last Saturday evening at Amelia Park Arena.

Agawam took an early lead in this game and carried it all the way to the third period.

Niko Passerini scored the first goal of the game, tallying in the first period to give the Brownies a 1-0 lead.

Agawam did not get very many more shots on the Westfield goal until the third period, when their offense started to come alive again.

The real story for Agawam was goalie Connor McAnanama. The junior goalie was nearly unstoppable in the game. He stopped shot after shot, getting peppered at times. But he kept with the shots and the rebounds and preserved the shutout into the third period.

Agawam got a little bit of insurance with an empty net goal from John Passerini. But Westfield was able to come back with a goal. Preston Kozub, a freshman, iced the game with his empty-netter to give Agawam the 3-1 win.

GIRLS ■ from page 12

scored a basket in each half, and was otherwise silenced by the Pacers’ defense.

In the second half, Agawam would try to nip away at the Chicopee lead, but their defense could not keep Meadows and Gutierrez off the boards. Agawam deficit would increase, and despite outscoring the Pacers in the final frame, the Brownies did not have nearly enough offense to come back.

Meadows finished with 20 points, nailing four treys. Gutierrez had 15 points, including three treys and four made free throws.

D’Amours led Agawam’s scoring with 20 points. She made nine field goals. Jess Lingenberg would have seven points and Sam Stratton had six points.

Last Monday night, the Brownies were defeated by the Holyoke Knights, falling 53-37 at home.

Holyoke’s offense has showed a lot of promise so far this season, and Agawam

McAnanama would make 41 saves in all, his career high for the Brownies. McAnanama has provided a stability in net since becoming the main starter last season. He helped lead Agawam’s defense all the way to the Division 3 State Championship game.

The victory, Agawam now has two wins over Westfield and two losses in the Berry Division heading into 2016.

The Brownies were set to close 2015 with two games against teams from out of the region. They were scheduled to face Shrewsbury Monday and North Middlesex Wednesday.

Agawam has more independent games this season with South Hadley being removed from their schedule.

Following their holiday break, the Brownies will resume with Berry Division play starting on Saturday afternoon.

The Brownies will first face Minnechaug. Since re-joining the Berry Division two years ago, Agawam has swept through Minnechaug in four games. The Falcons are 2-1 so far this season, all of their games coming in the division.

On Thursday, Agawam will play against Longmeadow for the first time this season. The two teams have beaten each other back and forth the last two years, with Agawam scoring a semifinal win against the Lancers in the last meeting between the two teams.

did not have an answer for the Knights hot shooters early in the game.

The Knights would jump out to a big lead early in the game before Mirski was able to come back with a few points to keep the Brownies in the game.

But Holyoke’s offense stayed consistent through the third quarter, and the Knights had a healthy 45-30 lead heading into the final quarter.

The pace quickened near the end of the game, with several turnovers occurring on both sides and very little scoring in the final minutes.

Mirski led Agawam with 10 points. Sam Charette had eight points off the bench, and seven points came from D’Amours.

Agawam had a game at Amherst Thursday night. The Brownies will be back at home on Tuesday, hosting West Springfield at 7 p.m.

Babe Ruth signups announced

WESTFIELD - Greater Westfield Babe Ruth League president Dan Welch has announced signups for the 2016 baseball season. The signups will be held on Friday, Jan. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, Jan. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The signups will be held at the new Westfield Senior Center located at 45 Noble St.

The Greater Westfield Babe Ruth League has provided competitive baseball for more than 60 years. Players from Westfield, Southwick, Granville, Montgomery, Blandford, Huntington, Agawam, West Springfield and Southampton are invited to sign up. The league provides baseball opportunities for players from age 13 through age 16. New players at all ages are chosen for teams each season.

The league’s success can be attributed to the many trained coaches and league volunteers that work tirelessly to support the

league. The league has enjoyed great success in the 2012 and 2014 seasons with teams earning trips to the Babe Ruth World Series Tournaments in Kitsap County, Wash., and Ocala, Fla.

Westfield Babe Ruth provides the travel ball experience without the high cost to join other programs. Most games are played at Bullens Field in Westfield.

Westfield Babe Ruth has also been selected to host the 2016 14-year-old World Series. This will be a great opportunity to showcase the city of Westfield and our league to Regional Champion teams from around the country.

Advance signups for tryouts to be held in February are required. Please contact Dan Welch at 413-530-3374 if you have any questions. A copy of a player’s birth certificate is needed for signups.

‘Step Up To the Line’ free throw contest

SOUTH WICK - All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship.

The local competition in Southwick will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at the Southwick Powder Mill School, 94 Power Mill Road; with a start time of 2:30 p.m. Snow date will be Wednesday, Jan. 27, at the same time and same location.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually with winners progressing through local, district, and state competition. International champions are announced by the K of C international headquarters based on scores from the

state level competitions. All boys and girls 9 to 14 years old are eligible to participate and will compete in respective age divisions. Last year more than 344,000 sharpshooters participated in over 4,700 local competitions.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent.

For entry forms or additional information, please contact Al Matos District Deputy for Fr. Thomas Shea Council 11178 in Southwick at 413-569-6914 or your physical education teacher at Powder Mill Middle School.

Ski, hockey tickets available at Park & Rec

AGAWAM — The Parks & Recreation Winter Brochure is now available online at www.agawam.ma.us.

Discounted Ski Blandford tickets are available for \$25 each and can be used any day that the mountain is open for skiing during the 2015-16 season. Tickets will be available at the Parks & Recreation Department, 1000 Suffield St., beginning Monday, Dec.14. Call 413-821-0514 for more informa-

tion.

Discounted Springfield Falcons tickets may be purchased for \$15 each at the Agawam Park & Recreation Department. The vouchers can be exchanged at the Falcons box office at any time for any Falcons home game. Call 413-821-0514 for more information.

These tickets make great Christmas presents and/or stocking stuffers.

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HALL OF FAME
from page 12

He struck out 30 batters in a 14-inning performance. The following year, he went 10-1 on the mound and finished with a WMass best .512 batting average.

Hall of Fame manager Leo “The Lip” Du-rocher, a West Springfield native, played 15 years in the majors as an infielder, but is better known for his time being a bench boss. He finished with 2,008 victories, which ranks 10th all-time amongst managers.

Also joining them as individuals are one-time Greenfield High School catcher and Tri-County League coach Howie Burns and longtime Hampshire Regional manager Dave Grills, who amassed over 300 wins in his career.

The only team being inducted is actually a squad that had a very successful run from

1961-1963, which was the boys from Chicopee High. The squad, which featured major leaguer Al Stanek and outfielder Alex Vyce, captured the state championship in 1962 with a perfect record of 21-0.

Scott Coen will serve as the master of ceremonies.

For those interested in attending the banquet, tickets can be purchased through the Valley Blue Sox website at valleybluesox.com. Tickets are \$45 per person or \$320 for a table of eight.

The event begins with a cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m.

Dave Forbes is the sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 237.

SWIMMING
from page 12

the 100-yard breaststroke, and John Wheat was a winner in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:02.88.

Both Wheats captured wins in the relay events.

On Dec. 18, the Brownies overwhelmed the Sci-Tech, defeating the Cybercats 125-34.

Agawam competitors took place in every single event in the meet. David Wheat and John Wheat each had two individual wins.

David Wheat captured the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 58.86 and the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:07.93.

John Wheat was the winner in the 100-yard freestyle in 54.37 seconds and the 200-yard freestyle in 2:04.66.

Frank Mastromatteo won the 50-yard freestyle in 28.56 seconds. Brian Keefe had the 100-yard backstroke victory in 1:38.34. Joshua Shea had a 500-yard freestyle win in 6:23.00.

Coming up after the new year, Agawam

will face Amherst on Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Girls Swimming

Agawam fell to Westfield last Tuesday afternoon 117-63.

The Brownies did pick up a few individual wins in the defeat, with Sophia Pearson and Mary D’Angelo picking up two wins each.

Pearson won the 200-yard individual medley with a time 2:24.61. She also won the 500-yard freestyle in 5:44.46.

D’Angelo won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:25.69 and followed that with a win in the 100-yard butterfly in 1:16.29.

Agawam also won the 200-yard freestyle relay event.

The Brownies fell to 1-3 with the defeat and will face Amherst Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

Molinari returns to coach Pioneers

Tryouts also announced

LUDLOW - The Western Mass Pioneers are pleased to announce that Federico Molinari is returning to coach the team.

Molinari played six seasons for the Pioneers (2003, 2006-2010) and was the Western Mass head coach in 2012-2014. Molinari left the Pioneers in 2015 to coach the WM Pro Soccer team, which reached the finals and lost in penalty kicks.

“I’m very excited to rejoin the Pioneers” said Molinari. “We have a lot of work to do to bring in players that want to improve their game and get results on the field. Our goal is to make the playoffs and to qualify for the 2017 US Open Cup.”

Dennis Gomes will return as Molinari’s assistant coach. Gomes was Pioneers head coach in 2015, and has been a longtime assistant working with Molinari. “I look forward to help develop future professional soccer players this season with Federico,” Gomes replied.

The Pioneers will be holding tryouts on Jan. 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. The cost is \$50, and it includes the training session along with a Pioneers t-shirt. Please visit www.wmpioneers.com for more information and to register.

“We are hoping to get a good turnout and maybe identify some guys that can help us this year,” commented Pioneers general manager Greg Kolodziey. “We just got back



Federico Molinari will be returning as the head coach for the Western Mass Pioneers. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

from the USL league meetings finalizing the schedule and getting ready for the 2016 season. We need to have a good team this year.”

Please continue to visit us at www.wm-pioneers.com and also follow our Facebook and Twitter pages to keep up to date on all the Pioneers news.

Follow Us On
www.facebook.com/ AgawamAdvertiserNews



Legals

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT December 14, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library, Community Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on **Monday January 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.** for all parties interested in the Appeal of Steve Deland-Shibley Court Apartments, who is seeking a Variance in accordance with Section 180-31 to allow for the construction of a new single story building containing 3 handicap-accessible rental units and one handicap-accessible community laundry room. Premises identified as 33 Norman Terrace.

Doreen Prouty Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
12/24,12/31/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD15C0208CA

In the matter of: Zhanna Chebanova Of: Agawam, MA

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all persons interested in petition described:

A petition has been presented by **Antonina Chebanova** requesting that: **Zhanna Chebanova** be allowed to change his/her/ their name as follows:

Janna Janette Chebanova

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o’clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.)

on: 01/12/2016.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 15, 2015

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/31/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD15P2476GD

In the interests of Connor Robert Cross Of Agawam, MA Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 12/24/2015 by **Gina Ann Mancini** of Agawam, MA will be held 01/25/2016 08:15 a.m. Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located 50 State Street, Fourth Floor Springfield, MA 01103

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless

the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.

Date: December 24, 2015

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/31/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD15C0214CA

In the matter of: Kimberly Marie Magistri Of: Agawam, MA

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

To all persons interested in petition described:

A petition has been presented by **Kimberly M Magistri** requesting that: **Kimberly Marie Magistri** be allowed to change his/her/ their name as follows:

Kimberly Marie Comtois

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at: Springfield on or before ten o’clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 01/25/2016

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 28, 2015

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/31/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD14P2516GD

In the interests of Brian S Mesick Of Agawam, MA Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Resignation or Petition for Removal of

Guardianship of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Leomary D Salvias** on November 23, 2015 will be held 01/20/2016 08:15 a.m. Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located Hampden Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.

Date: December 18, 2015

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/31/15

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD12P2323PM

In the matter of: Tina Cincotta Of: Agawam, MA Protected Person/ Disabled Person/ Respondent

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR’S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First and Final account(s) of **Stephen R Cincotta** of Agawam, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 01/08/2016. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may

order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 11, 2015

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
12/31/15

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES
All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.
Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www.turley.com for more information.

Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Monday, Jan. 4

INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Introduction to research strategies. To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 8851 or visit agawamlibrary.org.

Friday, Jan. 8

THE ACC APPLAUSE SERIES starts the new year with a presentation of local phenomena by Agawam Paranormal at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Free and open to the public. For more information on Applause, visit www.agawamcc.org.

SECOND ANNUAL SCOUTING ALUMNI REUNION hosted by the Boy and Girl Scout units of Southwick, Granville and Tolland 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All former Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Explorers, Scouters and other adult volunteers are invited. RSVP by emailing alumni@wmascouting.org or calling Alicia Garcia at 413-594-9196, ext. 7031. There is no cost to attend, and guests are invited to bring Scouting memorabilia or pictures to share.

Saturday, Jan. 9

MERRIMACK VALLEY KENNEL CLUB DOG SHOW, today and Sunday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Young Building on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission.

Sunday, Jan. 10

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic to be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam, offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Thursday, Jan. 14

COLORING FOR GROWN-UPS at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. All coloring pages and supplies provided as well as snacks (adults only). To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4 or visit www.agawamlibrary.org.

Friday, Jan. 15

NORTHEASTERN POULTRY CONGRESS today from

noon to 7 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Mallary Complex on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission

Saturday, Jan. 16

SPRINGFIELD MOTORCYCLE SHOW sponsored by the Outdoor Sports Expo Group in the Young Building on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Today 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. General admission, \$15; Children 6 to 12, \$5.

AUTO PARTS SWAP 'N SELL sponsored by Start-Finish Productions, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. today, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. General admission, \$12; free for children 12 and under with paid adult.

Tuesday, Jan. 19

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will meet at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

Wednesday, Jan. 20

EASTERN NATIONAL PIGEON SHOW today 3 to 10 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Mallary Complex on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield.

Friday, Jan. 22

THE WOODWORKING SHOW today from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Young Building on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. \$12 at the door (cash only); 16 and under admitted free with paid adult. Active duty military, police and fire with identification admitted free.

Saturday, Jan. 23

SPRINGFIELD BRIDAL EXPO sponsored by Jenks Productions, Inc., today and tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Betty Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission, \$10; children 12 and under free. Register online to receive discount coupon.

Monday, Jan. 25

STAFF FROM FEEDING HILLS WELLNESS will offer free 10-minute sessions of either Reiki or therapeutic massage from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Registration, which begins Jan. 4, is recommended, as time slots are limited, and is by phone only at 413-789-1550, ext. 4.

Friday, Jan. 29

FIRST PERSON PRESENTATION, "Letters Home During the Civil War," from 7 to 8 p.m. at Storowton Village Museum Meetinghouse on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission \$5; children under 6 free.

Saturday, Jan. 30

RAILROAD HOBBY SHOW today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Better Living

Center, Young Building, Stroh Building and Mallary Complex on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Admission \$14; children 15 and under free when accompanied by an adult. Special online two-ticket pricing.

Tuesday, Feb. 2

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, will feature the Devine-Nix Duo at 10:30 a.m. Reception to follow. For more information, call Yolanda Martin at 413-736-0766 or email firgo9654@aol.com.

Friday, Feb. 12

DAN JONES, EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES column "Modern Love," will share his stories and read from his books at 10:10 a.m. the 11:15 a.m. at Scibelli Hall at STCC as part of its free Ovations series. For more information, call 413-755-4233 or email pcodonoghue@stcc.edu.

ONGOING

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A roundtable discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Rectory conference room, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247

or email Rosemary Sandline at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needleworkers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein, 60 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills, are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

- Monday, Jan. 4:** Swedish meatballs over egg noodles, green beans, apples.
Tuesday, Jan. 5: Beef stew, Caesar salad, garlic bread, birthday cake.
Wednesday, Jan. 6: Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, corn muffins, peaches.
Thursday, Jan. 7: Chicken cacciatore, peppers and onions, pasta and sauce, diced pears.
Friday, Jan. 8: Tomato Florentine soup, tuna melt with cheese and tomatoes, pudding.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, Jan. 4:** 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., line dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., bingo; 5:30 p.m., no Zumba Gold.
Tuesday, Jan. 5: 9 a.m., exercise, knitting class,

- sewing class; 10 a.m., chair exercise; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie ("Captain Phillips"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance.
Wednesday, Jan. 6: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble; no Golden Age Club meeting; 5:30 p.m., no Zumba Gold; Western Mass. Genealogy group meets.
Thursday, Jan. 7: 9 a.m., exercise, 10 a.m., quilting, line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge, 1 p.m., pitch, open art; 2 p.m., Melody Band practice; 4:15 p.m., pilates; 6:30 p.m., pitch, evening line dance.
Friday, Jan. 8: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., all media art class; 10 a.m., tai chi; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage; no Zumba Gold; 7 p.m., ACC Applause Series at Senior Center.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



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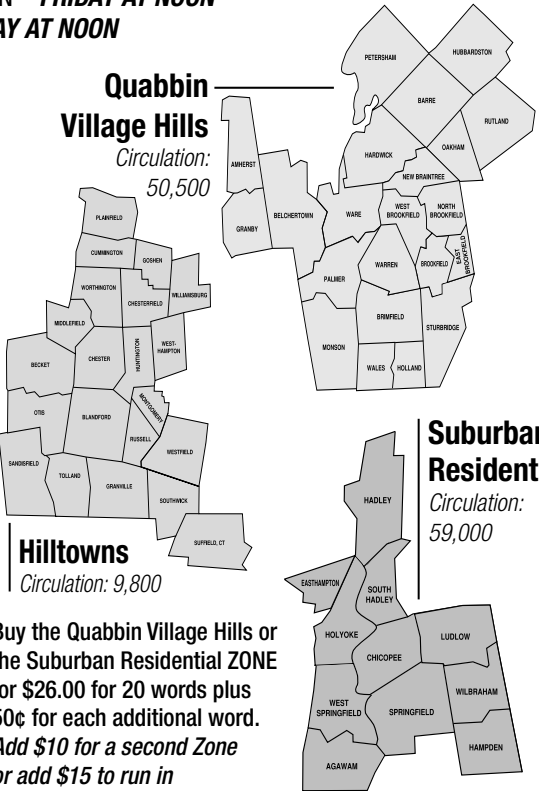
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Think you know your town? Take the 2015 news quiz

How well did you follow the news in 2015? For each of the questions below, the answer appeared somewhere in the pages of the Agawam Advertiser News sometime in the past year. If you think you've got a good handle on everything that happened in this town in the past year, take the quiz and send your answers to Agawam Advertiser News, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. You may also fax 413-786-8457, or email editor Michael Ballway at mballway@turley.com. Please send the answers on a separate piece of paper, typed or neatly printed, with your name and daytime telephone number (not for publication) at the top, and each question and answer denoted by number and letter only (e.g.: 1-A, 2-B, 3-A, 4-C, etc.). Those with the highest scores will be recognized in an upcoming edition of the Agawam Advertiser News. Entries must be received by Jan. 15.

1. For the third year in a row, the town's dog license tags were shaped and colored to match a theme. What was it?
A. Basketballs, after the new YMCA in town.
B. Purple Hearts, to honor the military.
C. Graduation caps, to recognize schoolteachers.
D. Silhouettes of Yoda, as yet another "Star Wars" movie tie-in.
2. Before reopening its Feeding Hills location in December, Partners Restaurant opened a West Springfield diner in April. What is it called?
A. The Dish.
B. The Table.
C. The Cup.
D. The Fork.
3. What was the name of the Agawam High School Drama Club's anti-bullying play performed for junior high students in late January?
A. "Let's All Stand Up."
B. "No, I Wouldn't Like a Wedgie."
C. "You Can't Stuff My Spirit in a Locker."
D. "Thank You for Flushing My Head in the Toilet."
4. EvvGirl Foundation, the Agawam organization that raises funds for children's causes in honor of Evan Bard, donated what items this year?
A. Playground equipment at the Early Childhood Center.
B. Three iPads for Agawam schools that Evan had attended.
C. Chromebooks at Baystate Children's Hospital.
D. Sports equipment at the Agawam YMCA.
5. Why was Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito in town on April 30?
A. To listen to Agawam town officials about their needs from state government.
B. To unveil environmental policies on the site of a townwide cleanup day.
C. To officially dedicate the new Wicked Cyclone roller coaster at Six Flags.
D. To announce her run for the Republican presidential nomination.

6. What was different about the Relay for Life last May?
A. It was held at School Street Park for the first time.
B. It was now a full 24-hour event, rather than 18 hours as in the past.
C. It included a "Concert for the Cure" musical program.
D. It was not held due to lack of interest.
7. A hike through Robinson State Park in May highlighted the work done by what 1930s federal agency?
A. The WPA.
B. The TVA.
C. The CCC.
D. The AAN.
8. Why did certain high schoolers visit EB's Restaurant on Thursday nights this year?
A. To attend culinary workshops for aspiring restaurant chefs.
B. To play in showcases for youth jazz musicians.
C. To participate in weekly AP Calculus study sessions.
D. To take advantage of a "get on honor roll, get free lobster roll" promotion.
9. Which of these groups announced it would fold in June of this year?
A. West of the River Chamber of Commerce.
B. Agawam Dog Owners Group.
C. Agawam Small Business Assistance Center.
D. Agawam St. Patrick's Day Committee.
10. Ten-year-olds Jordan Stack and Nick Uschmann did what in June to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project?
A. Held a charity car wash at Phelps School.
B. Held a magic show in Jordan's driveway.
C. Sold hot dogs at AHS baseball games.
D. Nothing — their popcorn fundraiser at School Street Park was in August.
11. Which school was named for Agawam's first school superintendent?
A. Clifford Granger School.
B. Benjamin Phelps School.
C. James Clark School.
D. Roberta Doering School.
12. What Agawam roadway was designated the "Purple Heart Trail" in July?
A. Federal Street.
B. The Route 57 expressway.
C. Walnut Street Extension.
D. Main Street.
13. What did Lighthouse Christian Church and St. David's Episcopal Church team up to do in August?
A. Host an ecumenical worship service.
B. Collect food for the Parish Cupboard.
C. Distribute backpacks and school supplies.
D. Hold a theological debate on the nature of grace.

14. According to 2013 statistics, what are the most dangerous intersections in town?
A. Agawam Rotary, Springfield and North streets, Morgan-Sullivan Bridge.
B. Feeding Hills Center, Suffield and Cooper streets, Springfield and North streets.
C. Agawam Rotary, Feeding Hills Center, Morgan-Sullivan Bridge.
D. Feeding Hills Center, Springfield and North streets, Main Street at Six Flags.
15. Why was Jake Lihan of Feeding Hills digging the dirt in Southwick in September?
A. He was an archeology student studying Native American artifacts found there.
B. He was helping build seasonal pools for an endangered toad.
C. He was part of a volunteer group improving the town's rail trail.
D. He was part of a construction crew working on the Route 57 extension.
16. Weekday traffic in Agawam ground to a halt on what Big E day?
A. Opening Day, Friday, Sept. 18.
B. Connecticut Day, Wednesday, Sept. 23.
C. Massachusetts Day, Thursday, Sept. 24
D. Agawam Day, Wednesday, Sept. 30.
17. A state grant was announced in October to fund what school improvements?
A. The gymnasium at Clark School.
B. Sports fields at Doering School.
C. Science labs at the high school.
D. The auditorium at the junior high school.
18. Who was the top vote-getter among City Council candidates in the Nov. 3 town election?
A. James Cichetti.
B. Christopher Johnson.
C. George Bitzas.
D. William Clark.
19. Why did the town receive a \$96,195 state grant in December?
A. To complete the bike trail on School Street.
B. To expand the sewer system in Feeding Hills.
C. To purchase wheeled trash and recycling toters.
D. To buy "smart meters" for the Water Department.
20. What costumed group showed up for a special event in Agawam this year?
A. Imperial Stormtroopers at the December premiere of "Star Wars" at Agawam Cinemas.
B. Massachusetts Volunteers at a Civil War 150th anniversary re-enactment in Robinson State Park in April.
C. Knights and damsels at "Renaissance Fair Day" in August at Six Flags.
D. All of the above.

Compiled by Michael J. Ballway

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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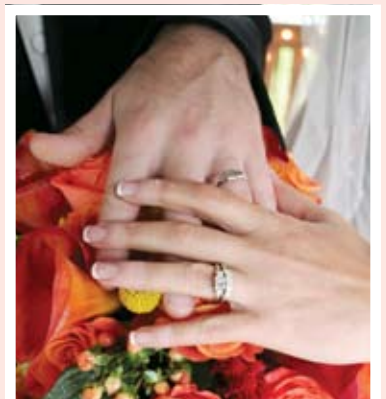
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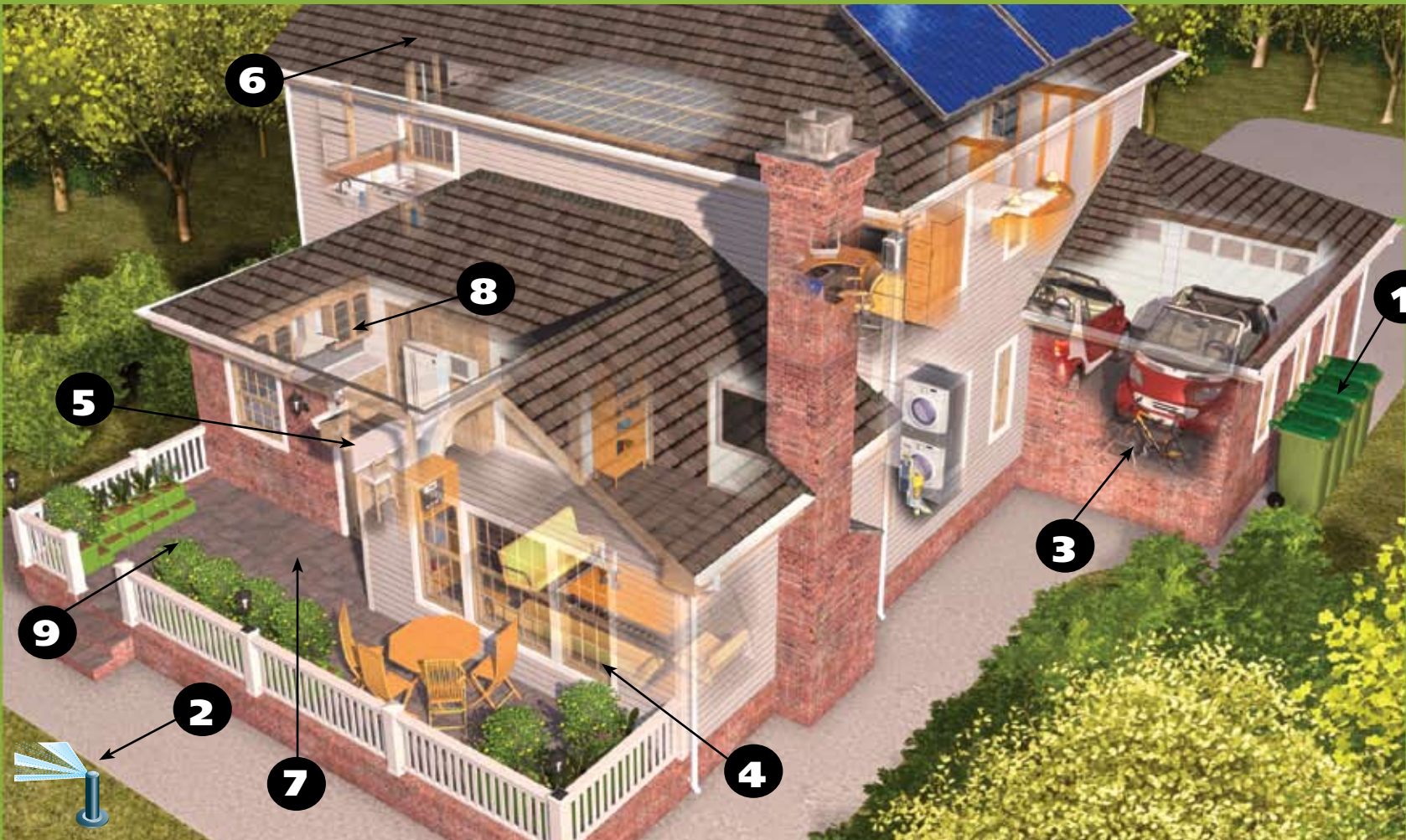
Annual showcase for local dancers



Students at the Mary Ann Studio of Dance were welcomed once again at Tower Square for the annual performance at the Festival of Trees. To the music of “Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree” to “Ice Cream Freeze” and many other numbers, first-time toddlers to the veteran adult dancers and everyone in between took part in the Boys & Girls Club fundraising event. This year Santa himself stopped by to greet the dancers. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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